



BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1966.

COWBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

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To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Cowbridge Borough.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1966 prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Board of Health Circular 1/67.

As mentioned in previous reports the statistics can be misleading in view of the population of the Borough.

The Council decided to embark on a housing scheme for 18 units of accommodation and plans were approved for 55 new houses by private enterprise - by far the largest number of houses approved in any one year.


There were no new cases of Tuberculosis and so the number of cases on the Register remain as two.

Environmental health matters are included in the body of the report. All main services are provided in the Borough and the absence of any industries in or near the area provides an atmosphere free from pollution.

I wish to thank the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors and Officials for their cooperation during the year.

N.K. CONTRACTOR.

Medical Officer of Health.



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SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Cowbridge is an ancient Charter Borough, the present Charter having been granted in 1888.

Sited on the main London-Fishguard road it was for many centuries a posting station for travellers using this important route to and from Ireland. In 1965 the Glamorgan County Highway opened a new by pass which has relieved the town of most of the heavy through traffic.

Cowbridge has a number of professional offices, Solicitors, Auctioneers, Architects and Accountants all have full time offices here. It is also provided with full time branches of the main bankers and a Crown Post Office.

The local Fire Service, Ambulance Station and Police Headquarters for the area are also sited in the Borough.

There are a small number of family factories in the town. Most of the inhabitants however find employment outside the Borough.

A list of the factories registered with the Council is as follows:-

1. Messrs. D. Brown & Sons Ltd., Printers.
2. Mr. A. Saunders, Boot Repairer.
3. Messrs. Arthur Jones & Sons Ltd., Builders Yard.
4. Messrs. Robert Thomas & Sons Ltd., Builders Yard.
5. Messrs. Frank Sanders (Cowbridge) Ltd., Garage Proprietors.
6. Messrs. West End Garage.
7. Glamorgan County Council Builders Yard.

SECTION "A".

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	84
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate book	305
Sum represented by the penny rate	£165
Rateable value of the district	£40,988
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	1,140

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.

<u>Births Registered - 1966.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate live births	13	7	20
Illegitimate live births	1	-	1
	14	7	21

Still Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate still births	Nil	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate still births	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.

Birth Rate Cowbridge Borough (adjusted)	18.60
Birth Rate for England and Wales	17.70
Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan (adjusted)	17.10
Birth Rate for Urban Areas in the Administrative County	17.01

Infant Mortality.

Number of deaths under 1 year of age	Nil
Infant mortality rate for Cowbridge per 1,000 births	Nil
Infant mortality for England and Wales	19.00
Infant mortality for Administrative County of Glamorgan	21.17
Infant mortality for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	22.10
Still Births (Nil)	Nil

Death Rate per 1,000 Population.

Number of deaths Cowbridge Borough	13
Death Rate for Cowbridge Borough (adjusted)	12.20
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.70
Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	13.90
Death Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	14.38

Causes of Death 1966.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	1	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	-	2
Coronary Disease, Angina	2	1	3
Other Heart Diseases	-	2	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1	2
	8	5	13

SECTION "B".

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. N.K. Contractor M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health. (Also Medical Officer to the Cardiff and Cowbridge Rural District Councils and Medical Officer South East Division, Glamorgan).

(b) Public Health Inspector.

Hubert Thomas F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector. (Also Chief Public Health Inspector, Cowbridge Rural District Council).

Committee Dealing with Health Matters.

The Monthly Meetings of the Council and Standing Committees both deal with health matters as the occasion demands.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Area Ambulance Services are administered from the Ambulance Control Station, Hawthorn, Pontypridd, the telephone number of which is Pontypridd 3166.

In addition to the vehicles at the Ambulance Control Station, one ambulance is stationed at the Ambulance Station, Cowbridge and another at the Ambulance Sub-Station, Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals or nursing homes within the area. Infectious cases are usually admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Cefn Hirgoed or Cardiff.

Medical and surgical cases are admitted to any of the Board's Hospitals in Bridgend, Cardiff, Pontypridd and Llandough.

Maternity cases usually enter the Bridgend or Cardiff Hospitals.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are examined at the Ministry of Health's Public Laboratory at Cardiff and chemical analyses are carried out by the County Public Health Laboratory also at Cardiff.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

A hard water of high bacterial quality is provided by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board throughout the Borough.

With one exception all properties in the Borough are connected to these mains.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths in the Borough.

Schools.

There are two schools in the area; the Cowbridge Grammar School and Y Bontfaen Elementary School.

These schools are provided with water closets and mains water.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Thaw passes through the town and since its diversion in 1958 no flooding has taken place in the Borough from this source. There was some flooding in the West end of the town during the year.

The river is free from pollution.

HOUSING.

- (a) New Council Houses. No new Council Houses were erected during 1966. The Council own land upon which they intend to erect further houses. The Council's estates remain as follows:-

Broadway	12
Borough Close	36
Cae Stumpie	14
Church Street & Southgate	3
The Butts & Bush House	4
Town Hall (Caretaker's House)	1
Total	<u>70</u>

- (b) Future Council Houses. The Council approved a scheme for the construction of 6 maisonettes, 6 ground floor flats and 6 houses during the year.
- (c) Private Enterprise. One house was completed by private enterprise during 1966. Plans for a further 55 houses were approved, the largest number of private enterprise houses to be constructed in the Borough at any one time.
- (d) Selection of Tenants. Tenants for Council Houses are selected by a points system and this works well. The home conditions of applicants are verified by a visit by the Public Health Inspector who reports upon the points awarded to the Council. The final selection is made by the housing committee.
- (e) Demolition or Closure of Unfit Houses. No demolition or closing orders were made during the year.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

- (a) Discretionary Grants. The following grant was approved during the year:-

<u>Property.</u>	<u>Synopsis of Work.</u>	<u>Grant.</u>
9 The Limes	Bathroom etc.	£386 10s 0d

- (b) Standard Grants. No applications were made during the year.

A total of 26 discretionary grants and 9 standard grants have been made under the Housing Acts.

Plans.

The following plans were submitted for approval under the Building Byelaws:-

(a) New houses or flats	55
(b) Conversion of premises into houses or flats	1
(c) New business premises	Nil
(d) Additions or alterations to houses or business premises	6
(e) Stores and garages	1
	<u>63</u>

Included in the above figures are 53 proposed houses at the Old Station Yard for Messrs. George Wimpey and Co. Ltd.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

- (a) Street Cleansing. The main highway through the town is cleansed by the Glamorgan County Highways Department who employ a mechanical street sweeper for that purpose. The unclassified roads are cleansed by the Borough roadman. Street litter bins are provided at certain points in the town. The Borough Highways were tar sprayed during the year.
- (b) Refuse Bins. Almost all properties in the town are provided with properly constructed refuse bins. The Public Health Inspector takes informal action for the provision of bins as the occasion demands.
- (c) Cesspool Emptying. There are no cesspools in the Borough.
- (d) House Refuse Collection and Disposal. All food premises have a twice weekly collection and private dwellings and other premises have a collection once weekly. This service is carried out by the Rural District Council at the cost of the Borough. Disposal is arranged at the District Council's central refuse disposal site at Llanharan.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The Borough Council share a sewage disposal works with the District Council at the Lake Farm, Near Cowbridge (within the area of the Rural District). The maintenance of these works is supervised by the Rural District Council but the cost divided between the Borough and District Council. Recommendations were made to enlarge the works due to the increase in the number of houses in the joint areas and the consulting engineers were asked to prepare the necessary detailed scheme.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The air in the Borough is relatively pure there being no factories or works within the area or in the neighbourhood.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960.

There are no licenced caravan sites within the Borough.

DOMESTIC PESTS.

- (a) Rodent Control. Arrangements are made with the Rural District Council for the use of their rodent operative and the Borough Council pay an inclusive charge for his services and the material used. Warfarin is now exclusively used and has proved to be satisfactory and reasonably safe to use. There are no farms in the Borough.

Details of the works carried out during 1966 are set out below:-

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Number of properties in district	437	Nil
Total inspected following notification	27	Nil
Number infested by (i) Rats	13	Nil
(ii) Mice	Nil	Nil
Total properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	Nil	Nil
Number infested by (i) Rats	Nil	Nil
(ii) Mice	Nil	Nil

- (b) Other Pests. The Public Health Inspector gives advice where required on modern methods of eradicating domestic pests.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The one remaining house with cesspool drainage was connected to the Sewer during the year under the provisions of Section 42 of the Public Health Act 1936.

MILK SUPPLY.

All milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested. There are no registered dairies in the town but three retailers, with dairies in other districts; retail milk in the Borough.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

Routine inspections are made of premises handling food for sale in the Borough and the attention of occupiers is drawn to any infringements of the Hygiene Regulations.

All the licenced premises in the town have satisfactory sanitation connected to the Public Sewer with arrangements for glass washing in or adjacent to the public bars.

ICECREAM.

No icecream is manufactured in the Borough. Seven retailers are registered with the Council and all sell icecream manufactured by one or other of the principal manufacturers. No samples were taken during 1966.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the Borough. The four butchers purchase their supplies from a wholesaler or have their animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse at Bridgend where the Public Health Inspector of that area carries out an inspection and marks the meat before it leaves the premises.

On occasions meat is found to be unfit in butchers shops. A certificate for the meat condemned is given and arrangements made for its removal to a licenced dealer outside the area.

The amount of food condemned during 1966 is as follows:-

Chopped Pork	4 lbs.
Hind Quarter Ox Beef (home killed)	40 lbs.
Total	<u>44 lbs.</u>

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938: ADULTERATIONS ETC.

The following samples were taken in this area by Mr. W.D. Lewis the County Public Health Inspector during the year ended 31st December, 1966:-

Baby Food	1	Flour	1	Soft Drinks	1
Coffee & Chicory	1	Marmalade	2	Soup (canned)	1
Colouring	1	Marzipan	1	Spices	2
Cooking Fat	1	Milk	7	Stomach Powder	1
Dessert Powder	2	Salt	1	Vegetables	
Evaporated Milk	2	Sauces	2	(canned)	1
Total					<u>28</u>

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960.

26 food premises in the Borough comply with Regulation 16; and each of the 23 premises to which Regulation 19 applies conform with the Regulations.

There are no poultry processing premises in the Borough.

SHEEP AND CATTLE MARKET.

The Borough Council own a sheep and cattle market which is leased to two firms of auctioneers. Auctions are held on Mondays throughout the year and also on fair days and occasional sales of store stock. New cattle pens and covered sale ring were provided in 1957. The market has a public water supply and is connected to the public sewer. Electric light is available for loading of vehicles in darkness and a lorry wash and car park is sited at the rear of the market.

CINEMAS.

There is no cinema within the Borough.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

This Act came into force on the 1st August 1964 and the position at the end of 1966 was as follows:-

Registered Premises.

(a) Registered during 1966.

Offices	Nil
Retail Shops	Nil
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public	Nil
Fuel storage premises	Nil
	—
Total	Nil
	—

(b) Registered at end of year.

Offices	17
Retail Shops	18
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1
Catering establishments open to the public	6
Fuel storage premises	Nil
	—
Total	42
	—

(c) Inspections carried out.

Offices	12
Retail Shops	10
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1
Catering establishments open to the public	4
Fuel storage premises	Nil
	—
Total	27
	—

Total visits made 51

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963 (CONT).

(d) Persons employed.

Offices	63
Retail Shops	48
Wholesale departments, warehouses	16
Catering establishments open to the public	30
Canteens	Nil
Fuel Storage depots	Nil

Total	157

Males 49. Females 108.

(e) Exemption.

No exemptions were applied for and no prosecutions were made during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases.

Sixteen cases of Measles and one case of Pneumonia were notified during the year. All cases were nursed at home.

Tuberculosis.

The position at January and December 1966 remained unchanged as follows:-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On register 1st January, 1966	2	--	--	--	2
On register 31st December, 1966	2	-	-	-	2

Housing Conditions.

Both of the cases of tuberculosis are satisfactorily housed and it was not necessary to draw the attention of the Council to any matter during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

The report on the action taken in connection with Factories in the area is set out below:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Notices
Factories in which:- Section 1 (Cleanliness)) Section 2 (Overcrowding)) Section 3 (Temperature)) Section 4 (Ventilation)) Section 6 (Drainage of Floors)) are enforced by the Council	1	Nil	Nil
Factories in which:- Section 7 (Sanitary Conveniences) only is enforced by the Council	6	16	Nil
Total	7	16	Nil

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR 1966

	Inspections	Preliminary Notices	Statutory Notices
Drainage and Sewerage	36	Nil	Nil
Meat, Foods and Food Premises	72	3	Nil
Milk and Dairies	3	Nil	Nil
Housing	71	4	Nil
Public Health Act	42	Nil	Nil
Infectious Disease	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories and Workshops	16	Nil	Nil
Offices and Shops	27	Nil	Nil
House Refuse	51	Nil	Nil
Water Supplies	3	Nil	Nil
Works in Progress	87	Nil	Nil
Miscellaneous	45	Nil	Nil
Total	453	7	Nil

